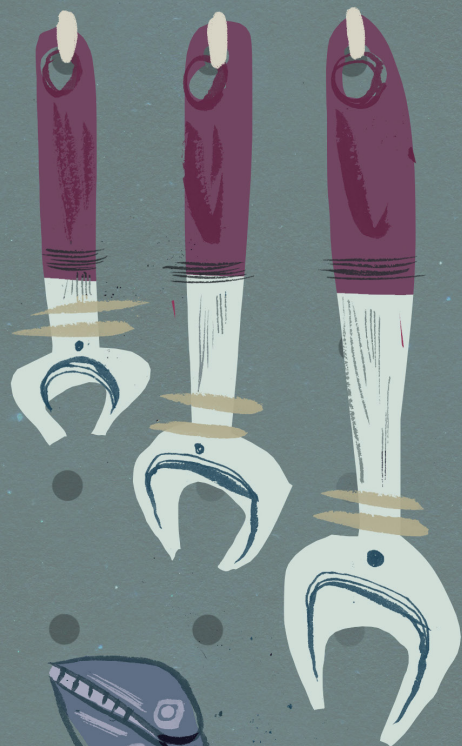


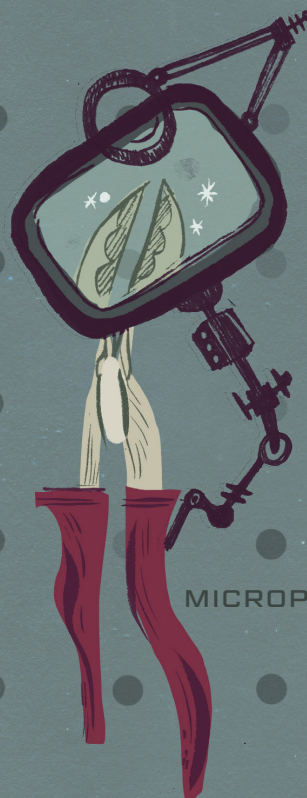
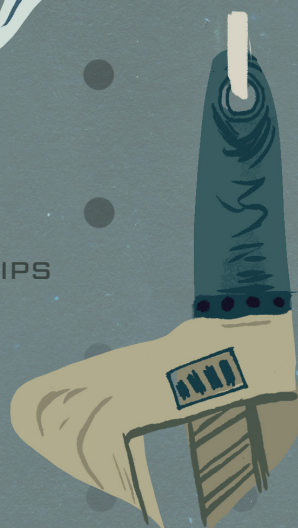


INTERSTELLAR CINDERELLA

By Deborah Underwood
Illustrated by Meg Hunt



ASTROSNIPS



MICROPLIERS

GALACTIC
GOGGLES



MEGAMAG MALLET

PLASMA PUMP

ANTIMATTER
HAMMER

ROBOT CLAMP



For Judith —D. U.
To Mike, who turns stars into constellations —M. H.

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Summary: In this outer space adaptation of the fairy tale in rhyme,
Cinderella dreams of becoming a spaceship mechanic.

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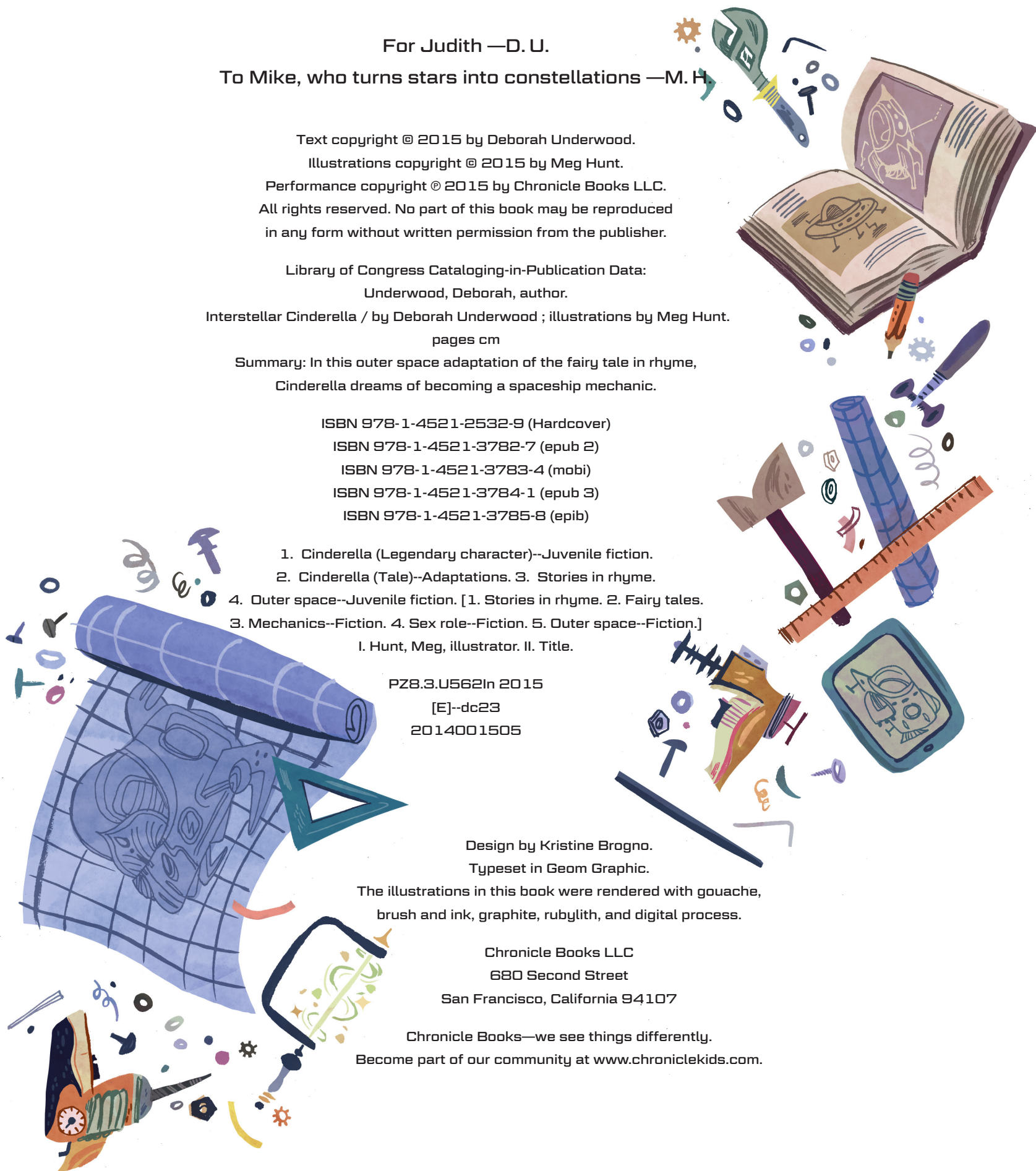
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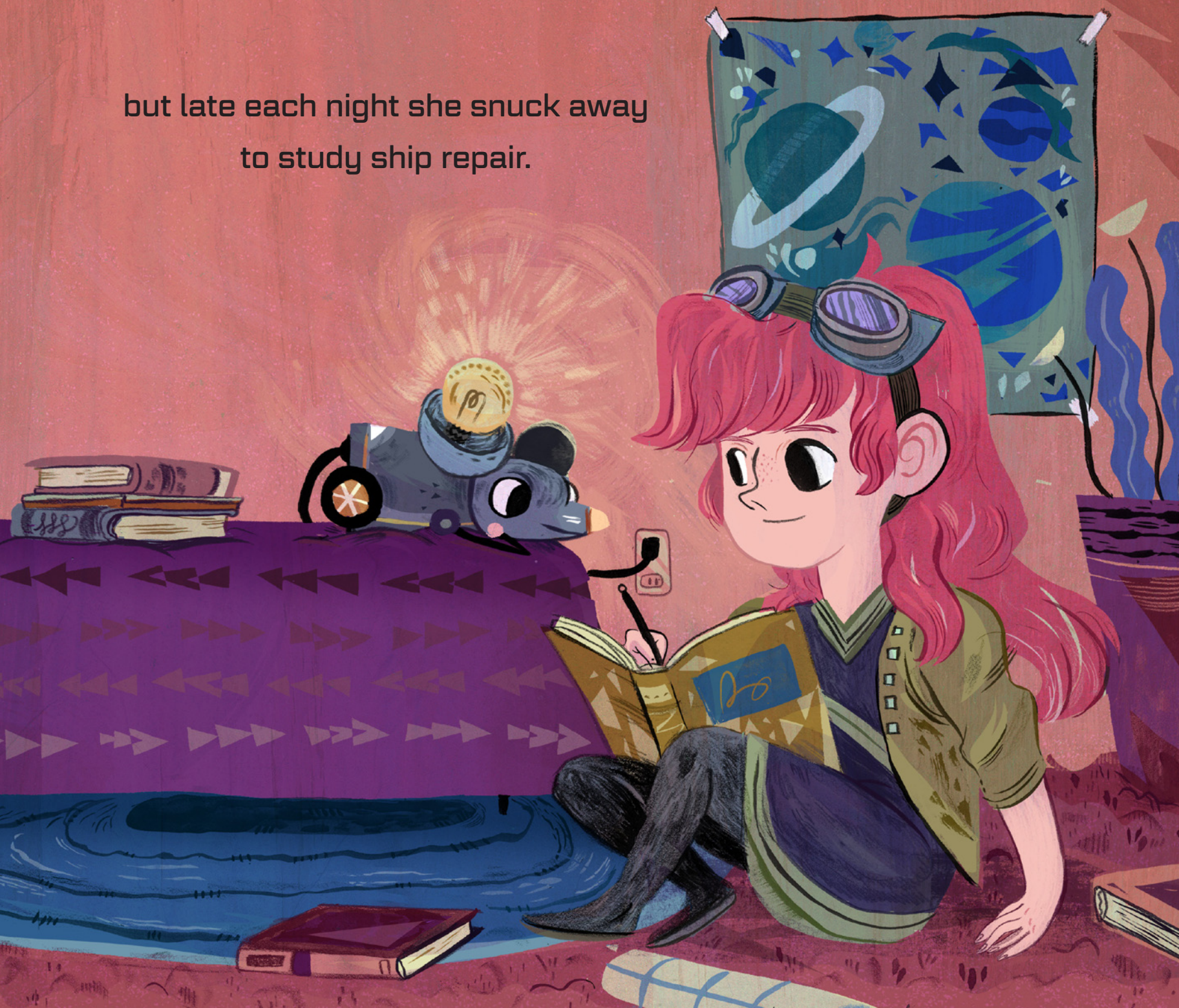
Once upon a planetoid,
amid her tools and sprockets,
a girl named Cinderella dreamed
of fixing fancy rockets.





She fixed the robot dishwashers
and zoombrooms in her care,

but late each night she snuck away
to study ship repair.



One day her wicked stepsisters
came dashing in, excited.
“The Prince’s Royal Space Parade!
Our family’s invited!”





"I wish that you could come, my dear.
Alas, no room! Although . . .
why don't you fix that broken ship
and fly it to the show?"

“My toolbox!” Cinderella cried.
“We’re stranded here, I guess.”



But Murgatroyd the mouse sent out
a cosmic SOS.





"I'm here—your fairy godrobot!
I'll make you brand-new tools.

You'll need a space suit, too, of course:
Atomic blue! With jewels!

This power gem will speed your ship
across the starry sky.
It only lasts till midnight—
after that, your ship won't fly."



“Oh, thank you!” Cinderella said.
She quickly fixed the rocket,
then tucked the sonic socket wrench
inside her space-suit pocket.

She zoomed past stars and nebulae,
and parked beside a moon.

The space parade was glorious!
Each starship made her swoon.





At last the royal ship approached.
Her heart was filled with yearning.
The ship of Cinderella's dreams!
But heavens! What was burning?





The prince's spaceship jerked and hissed
and spewed a cloud of grit.
The prince hopped out. "Oh blast! What now?
My chief mechanic quit!"



But Interstellar Cinderella
knew just what to do.
She zipzapped with her socket wrench—
the ship was good as new!



The prince invited her aboard.

Last stop? Galactic Hall!

He said, "I hope you'll join me
for the Gravity-Free Ball."



They talked for hours of rocket ships.
The time went whizzing by.
Then Cinderella saw the clock
and said, "I have to fly!"

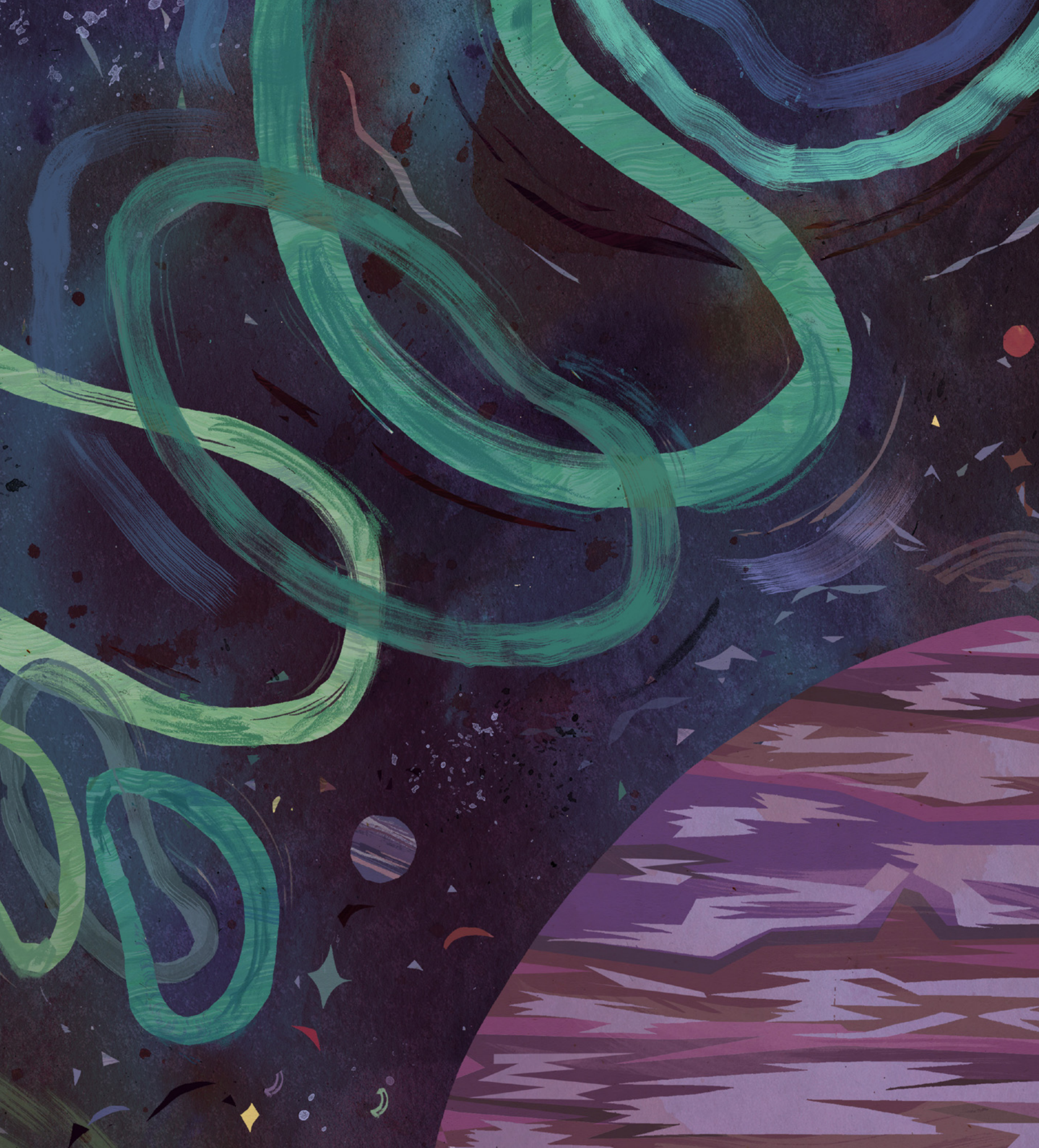
A prince with dark, curly hair, wearing a red tunic with white stripes on the sleeves and a blue cape, is running through a dark, swirling vortex. He has a determined expression and is reaching out with his right hand. In the background, a girl with long blonde hair is being pulled into the vortex. A small, round, orange creature with a face is also visible. A wrench is floating in the air. The scene is set within a large, arched opening, possibly a cave or a tunnel, with a wooden structure on the left.

“But wait!” the prince called after her.
“Please tell me how to find—”

The girl was gone—but she had left
her socket wrench behind.



The prince sent a transmission
to the farthest edge of space.
“I’ll search the cosmos for her.
How I wish I’d seen her face!”





“The prince’s ship!” Grisilla screeched.

Her sister squealed in fear.

“The prince won’t marry one of us
if Cinderella’s here!”



Their mother said, "Don't worry.
He won't find her in this house!
I've trapped her in the attic
with that useless robot mouse."

The illustration depicts a scene with two characters. A woman with dark hair, wearing a green dress, stands and holds a large, ornate black key. She has a smug expression and is looking down at a younger girl. The girl has long, dark, wavy hair and is wearing a blue dress with a pink geometric pattern. She looks distressed, with wide, worried eyes and a small frown. The background is a warm, textured brown. To the right, there is a blue chest of drawers with a lamp on top that has three glowing spherical bulbs. The floor is covered in a pattern of dark, irregular shapes.



The prince's cargo door revealed
a broken craft within.

"The girl I seek can fix a ship.
So—who'd like to begin?"







He gave the sonic socket wrench
to one, then to the other.

Alas, they couldn't fix the ship
(and neither could their mother).

Cinderella struggled,
but the space rope held her tight,
till Murgatroyd's robotic teeth
cut through it with one bite.



“The ship! It’s leaving! Wait—what’s this?”

She made a fast repair,

then strapped the rusty jet pack on
and blasted through the air.



She landed right beside the prince.
“That wrench is mine!” she cried.



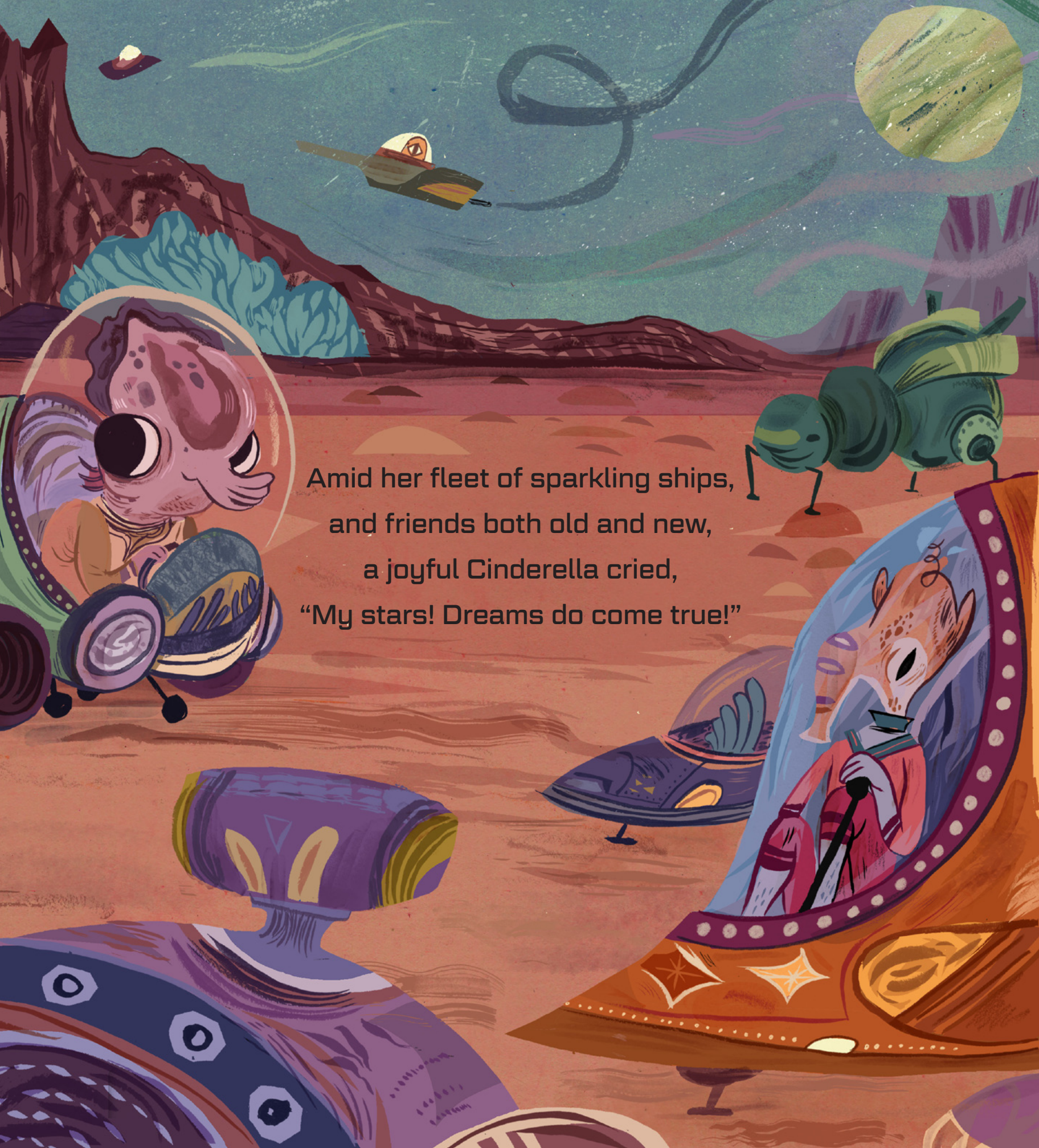
She quickly fixed the ailing ship.
The prince said, “Be my bride!”

She thought this over carefully.
Her family watched in panic.

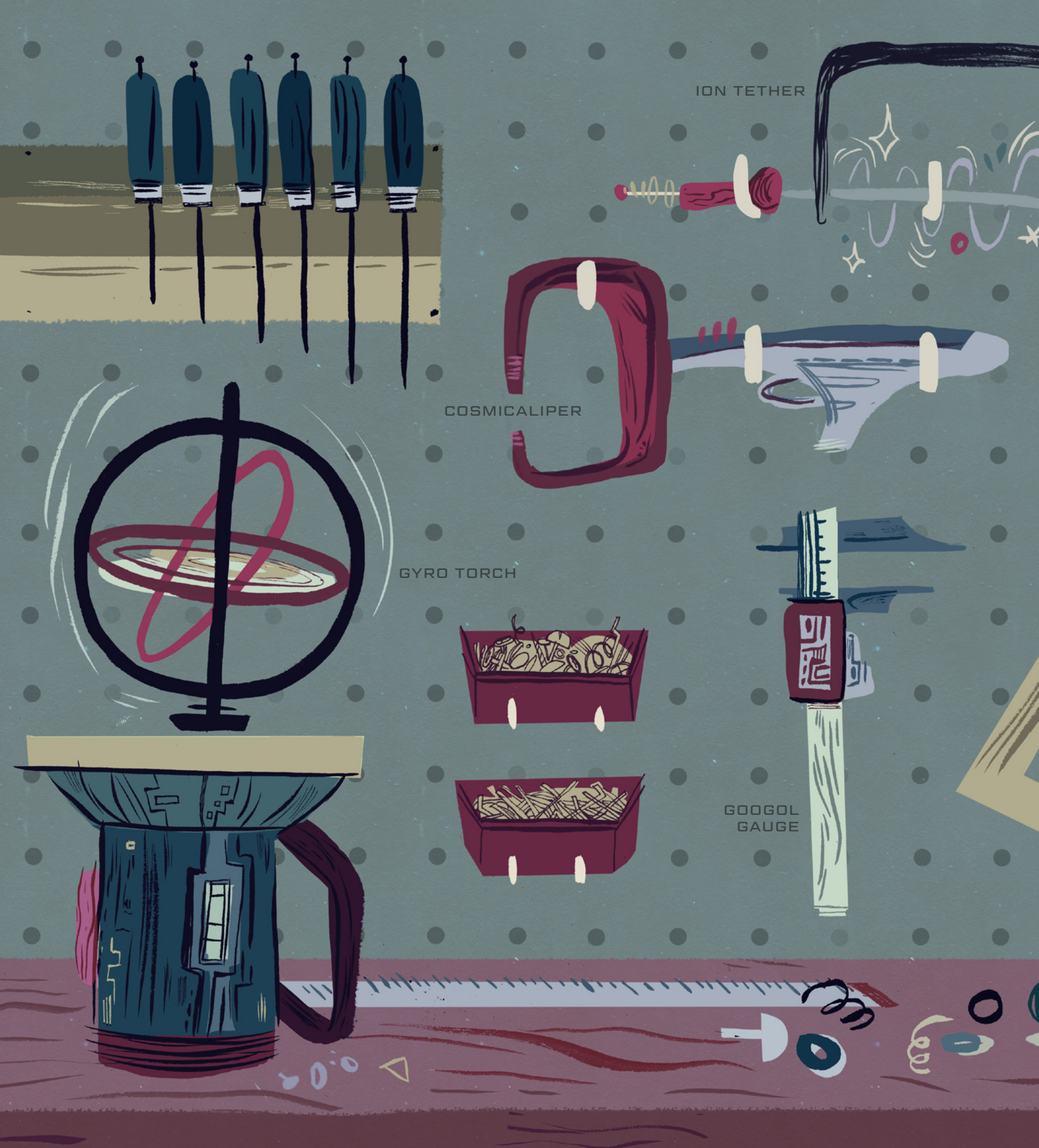


"I'm far too young for marriage,
but I'll be your chief mechanic!"





Amid her fleet of sparkling ships,
and friends both old and new,
a joyful Cinderella cried,
“My stars! Dreams do come true!”

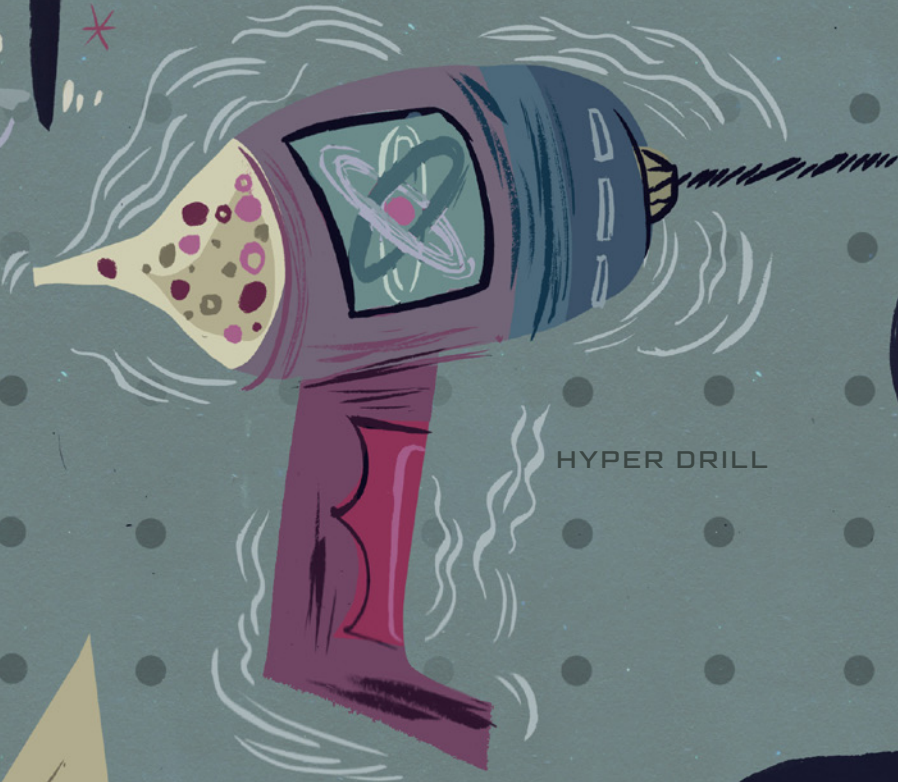


ION TETHER

COSMICALIPER

GYRO TORCH

GOOGOL GAUGE

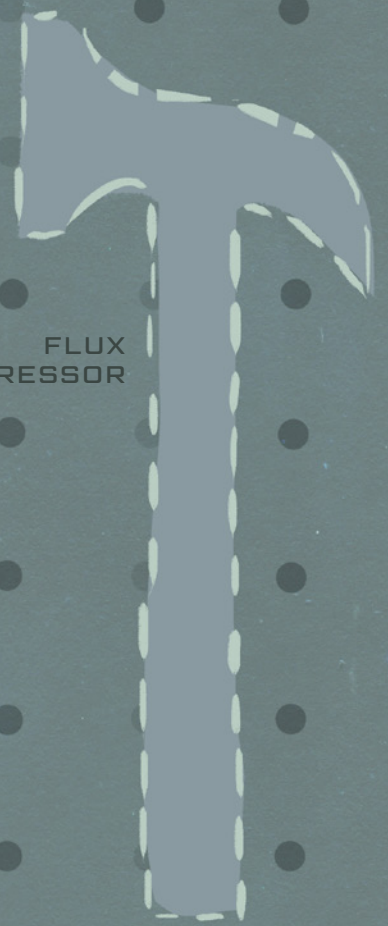


HYPER DRILL



HERSCHEL
CONVERTER

FLUX
COMPRESSOR





DEBORAH UNDERWOOD is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller and one of Publishers Weekly's Best Books of 2010, *The Quiet Book*, and many others. When she's not writing, you might find her singing in a chamber choir, playing a ukulele (very badly), walking around in Golden Gate Park, baking vegan cookies, or petting any dogs, cats, pigs, or turkeys that happen to be nearby.

Find out more about Deborah at www.deborahunderwoodbooks.com.

MEG HUNT is an illustrator, printmaker, educator, and all-around maker of things. Ever since she was little, she's been fascinated by the wonders of the universe and adventures big and small. She has worked for clients like Disney, DreamWorks Animation, Cartoon Network, Scholastic, Storey Publishing, Oxford University Press, and Plansponsor. Originally from a little seaside city in Connecticut, Meg now lives and works in Portland, Oregon. This is her first picture book.

Find out more about Meg at www.meghunt.com.

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